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Cuban-Exile Terrorist Ring Smashed as FBI Arrests 9

From News Dispatches

MIAMI, Oct. 11—The FBI smashed the terrorist Cuban Power organization today with the arrest of Dr. Orlando Bosch, alleged leader of the group, and eight other Cuban exiles including one woman.

The secret underground organization has claimed responsibility for a series of anti-Castro bombings in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Bosch, named as the mysterious "Ernesto" who heads the exile band, was accused of threatening to destroy ships and planes of Great Britain, Mexico and Spain in cablegrams sent June 6 to the heads of government in those countries.

Bosch and two other exiles, Jose Diaz Morejon and Barbaro Balan Garcia, also were charged with the Sept. 16 shelling of the Polish freighter Polanica in Miami harbor.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, said the charges involved a wave of terror that included 39 bombings or attempted bombings in New York, Los Angeles and Miami since Jan. 1.

The indictments, returned secretly Thursday by a Federal grand jury in Miami, charged all nine defendants with conspiracy to violate U.S. neutrality laws.

A tenth man identified in the indictment, but neither charged nor listed as a co-conspirator, was Ricardo Morales Navarrete. His testimony to the grand jury was reportedly the key to breaking the cover of the secret group.

Hoover said in his statement, "The Miami-based organization known as Cuban Power is a militant anti-Castro organization which has publicly claimed responsibility for various acts of violence against property of those nations which have continued to carry on trading with Cuba.

Although the indictments did not charge specific bombing attacks, which are not Federal crimes, the FBI said here Hoover's statement was in reference to a wave of attacks on facilities of Spain, Mexico, and Great Britain in the United States.

Consulates, embassies, offices of government airlines and even private automobiles of foreign consuls were bombed in attacks for which Cuban Power claimed credit —sometimes prior to the attack.

Miami police and victims of some bombings claimed that the majority of attacks were act of extortion, carried out to reinforce demands for money.

But in the January attack Cuban Power claimed as its first, a bomb exploded aboard a plane at Miami International Airport loaded with packages for Cuba. The packages were to be shipped to friends and relatives by refugees in Miami's huge Cuban colony.

Other bombings attacked brokers who handled package shipments to Cuba and at

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Dr. Orlando Bosch, a Cuban exile, defiantly makes the victory sign as FBI agents arrest him in Miami on charges of violating U.S. neutrality laws with organized anti-Castro terrorist activities.

least one bomb claimed by the group exploded in a Havana post office.

The FBI identified the other persons arrested as Miss Aimee Miranda Cruz, 40, the only woman in the group; Marco Rodriguez Ramos, 24; Jorge Luis Gutierrez Ulla, 20; Paulino Gutierrez, 45, father of Jorge; Andres Jorge Gonzalez, 37; and Jesus Dominguez Benitez, 27.

Bosch, who was a pediatrician in Cuba, had been arrested many times previously for anti-Communist activities, but never convicted. He faces a possible maximum fine of $21,000 or 26 years in jail or both if convicted on all five counts in the new indictments.

Last Sept. 20 a hooded figure, who identified himself as "Ernesto," staged a bizarre press conference here to announce the appointment of Bosch as the Miami spokesman for Cuban Power. Bosch, 42, was not present but later he announced he was accepting the appointment.

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